

Work First Employment Services

Employment Services are specially designed to help families seek, get, and maintain a job. Employment Services should assist each family to accomplish the following:

- Increase personal responsibility
- Remove barriers to employment
- Secure employment (See also [NC Employment Security Commission](#))
- Reduce long-term dependence on welfare programs

WORK FIRST PROGRAM - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

Q. Does the Work First Family Assistance Program provide any cash assistance?

A. Work First Family Assistance provides time-limited (60 Month & 24 Month) cash assistance to families and children under the age of 18. The Benefit Diversion Program, which is one of the Short Term Services and Benefits, also offers families one-time cash assistance. Under this Benefit Diversion Program families are also eligible to up to three months of Medicaid and Food Stamps to meet needs which are related to maintaining or accepting employment or for those who have experienced a short break between jobs.

Q. Whose income would count if I were to apply for the Work First Program Cash Assistance?

A. Along with meeting the eligibility requirements, a family must also be financially eligible to receive assistance. All income available to the family must be counted with certain exceptions.

Q. Which resources count and which do not for Work First Family Assistance?

A. A family receiving Work First Family Assistance is allowed \$3,000 in resources. Resources that can be readily converted to cash count toward the \$3,000 limit. "Readily converted" means the resource can be converted to cash in five working days. To simplify administration of the program, items that are otherwise countable but it is unlikely they could be converted to cash in five working days are not countable.

Q. What can I use the WFFA check for?

A. The WFFA check can be used for any purpose that will benefit the child/children included in the assistance unit.

Q. Do I have to report changes to my caseworker?

A. All changes must be reported to the caseworker within 10 days of knowing of the change even if the recipient is required to complete a Quarterly Report.

Q. What is the Work First Employment Program?

A. The Work First Employment Program helps families get and keep a job. It requires personal responsibility. It supports the universal belief that work is the foundation of our society and that every job has meaning and purpose.

Q. Who is eligible for the Work First Employment Program?

A. The Work First Employment Program helps families that receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and are not exempt from the employment requirement. Services to help

people stay employed are also provided to working families whose income is below 200% of the poverty level and received TANF during the last six months.

Q. What type of supportive services are available to Work First Employment Program families?

A. Eligible families can receive assistance with training, education, transportation, child-care, or counseling if the service supports a self-sufficiency plan that was developed with the family.

For more information, please see the [Work First Program](#).

For more information, contact:

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